

the vermicular action of the body and foot, which is doubtless much aided by the segmental disposition of the hard parts. It is also possible that the fringed margin may act as a paddle, as well as being subservient to a very opposite action, that of increasing the tenacity of suctional adhesion. As to the bristles that are sometimes seen at the sutures of each valve above the margin, I believe they are accidental or ornamental, and have no particular use in the animal œconomy; they only appear in one British species, the *C. fascicularis*.

The singular fact of the almost instantaneous rapid natation of the animal before it is even entirely freed from the capsule, leads to a fair presumption that the oviparous germs of all the bivalve and gasteropodous Mollusca have, as they emerge from their larval condition, the power, for a limited time, of locomotion, which is accorded them by nature apparently for the purpose of seeking out and conveying themselves to their respective peculiar habitats; and we learn by the present case that, as soon as a rapid locomotion has accomplished its objects, it ceases, and the animal adopts the phase of progression that is ordained for it.

I regret that circumstances prevented the examination being carried on beyond the 31st July, but I cannot believe that, after that time, any metamorphosis would have presented itself. During the eight days of inspection no unusual aberrations of form were visible; nothing appeared but a gradual increase of the organism until it had assumed the figure and attributes of a completed Chiton, which, in the interval I speak of, had attained the length of  $\frac{1}{20}$ th to  $\frac{1}{30}$ th, and breadth  $\frac{1}{43}$ th of an inch.

It appears, then, that M. Cuvier's determination is correct, that the Chitons are cyclobranchiate Mollusca.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM CLARK.

XXXVIII. — *Note on Linaria sepium, Allman.*  
By CHARLES C. BABINGTON, M.A., F.R.S. &c.\*

EARLY in the summer of 1855 I succeeded in obtaining seeds of this plant from roots growing in the Cambridge Botanical Garden which had been originally sent to it by Dr. Allman from Bandon. These seeds were sown in a pot, and produced many plants which flowered in the August and September following. The produce thus obtained shows that my former

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idea concerning *L. sepium* is correct, and that it is not a distinct species, but a hybrid between *L. repens* and *L. vulgaris*. Four forms were raised from the seeds of *L. sepium*: (1) *L. sepium*, (2) a plant closely resembling *L. repens*, (3 and 4) slightly differing forms of *L. vulgaris*.

*L. repens* is growing on the same bed in the garden as the *L. sepium* from which these seeds were obtained, but *L. vulgaris* grows in quite a different part of the garden. Similarly at Bandon, I learn from Dr. Allman that *L. repens* and *L. sepium* grow together, but *L. vulgaris* is not found within a mile of *L. sepium*.

Since the above note was written, I have received from Bandon, through the kindness of Dr. Allman, a series of specimens quite connecting *L. sepium* and *L. repens* which he had gathered in their native place. The result derived from cultivation is thus, to a great extent, confirmed by observation of the wild plants.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*Catalogue of the Genera and Subgenera of Birds contained in the British Museum.* By G. R. GRAY, F.L.S. London: 1855.

THIS is one of the latest and most valuable additions to the excellent series of British Museum Catalogues now in course of publication. It is, in fact, a new edition of Mr. G. R. Gray's well-known 'List of the Genera of Birds,' which has contributed so much to the reform of ornithological nomenclature. During the eleven years which have passed since the issue of the last edition of this work, great progress has been made in ornithology as in other branches of natural science. Books, pamphlets, and periodicals in all parts of the civilized globe contain the labours of naturalists vying with each other for precedence in establishing new genera, new species, and new arrangements among the members of the Class *Aves*; and though there has been some complaint, and not without foundation, that ornithology has hitherto been rather a neglected branch of natural science, it would seem that the present activity, if continued, bids fair to advance our knowledge of this interesting subject to at least a par with that of the other classes of the animal kingdom.

As regards however the *genera* of Birds, the subject of Mr. Gray's work, we fear that the ornithologists of the present day are advancing rather too rapidly. Mr. Gray's list of 1844 contained upwards of 1100 distinct types which had then been raised to the dignity of genera. By the present work it appears that since then the number has been more than doubled—those given in the present Catalogue and Appendix amounting to no less than 2400—and we believe that since its publication many others have been created to swell the list. Now, considering that, according to the most recent estimate,